



The President's Daily Brief

6 September 1973

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The military situation in and around the Cambodian provincial capital of Kompong Cham deteriorated further yesterday. (Page 1)

Hanoi and the South Vietnamese Communists are seeking a cutback in the size of the ICCS in an attempt to reduce the scope of the commission's activity. (Page 2)

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The USSR

(Page 3)

A high-level Romanian delegation en route to the North Korean National Day celebrations will stop over in Peking for an "unofficial friendly visit." (Page 4)

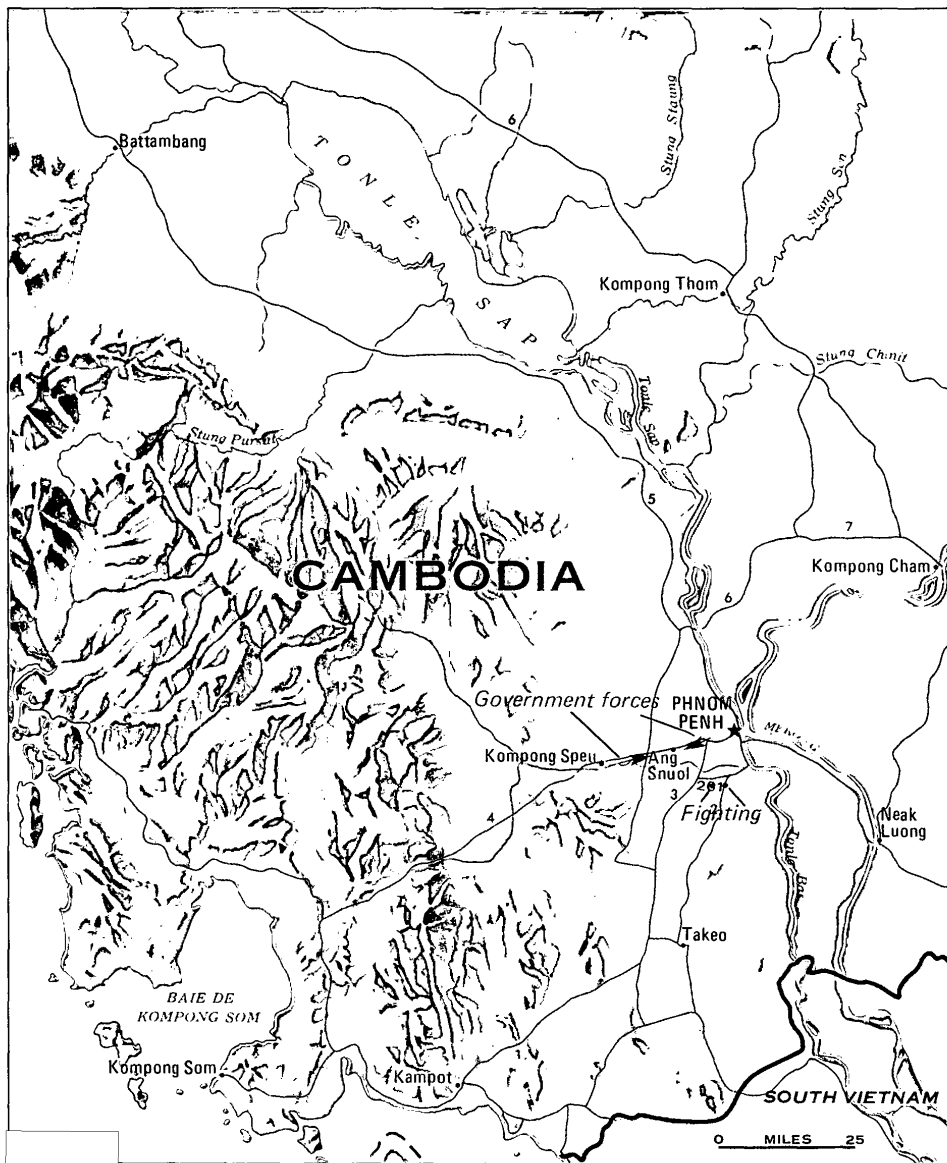
Notes on Australia's new controls on meat exports, and the latest international monetary developments, appear on Page 5.

the Soviet Union

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CAMBODIA

The situation in and around Kompong Cham deteriorated further yesterday, when the insurgents stepped up their pressure against government positions just northwest and southwest of the isolated provincial capital. Some government forces have pulled back in disarray. At last report, some Communist elements had infiltrated Kompong Cham, and some fighting has occurred in the center of the city.

On the western outskirts of the city, government battalions trying to open a section of Route 7 have made little progress. The Communist threat east of the city has temporarily diminished as a result of effective fire support from Cambodian Navy vessels on the Mekong. This force has already expended half of its ammunition, but several vessels carrying fresh supplies are scheduled to depart from Phnom Penh today.

In the Phnom Penh area, government units have made no headway in reopening Route 4 near Ang Snuol, 15 miles from the capital. The operation has been hindered by bickering among senior commanders. Other government forces moving on Ang Snuol from the southwest, however, are making some progress in the face of light resistance. South of Phnom Penh, scattered fighting is continuing along or near several sections of Routes 2 and 201 as government elements seek to re-establish control over the two roads.

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VIETNAM

Hanoi and the PRG have sent diplomatic notes to the ICCS members proposing that they "consider immediately" a cutback in personnel.

The language of the notes suggests that Hanoi is laying the groundwork for a future demand that ICCS regional and local teams be removed, leaving only the ICCS headquarters in Saigon.

The Communists have been pushing for a reduction in ICCS activity almost since the commission's establishment, using the argument that it should be a mediating rather than an investigative body. This latest effort to reduce the scope of the commission does not necessarily mean that Hanoi is planning a major increase in military or political activity in the countryside, but it does indicate that the Communists chafe under the political and psychological inhibitions imposed by the presence of ICCS field teams.

The Communists apparently would like to reshape the ICCS before the Iranian team gets established. They probably will use the commission's recurrent financial difficulties to back up their arguments that its activities should be curtailed.

Even if this pressure fails, the ICCS is not likely to be as vigorous as it was before Canada's departure. The Iranians will need some time to get the feel of the situation. There is no indication that the Communist members of the ICCS intend to be more cooperative, although the Poles have stopped hinting that they might withdraw.

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ROMANIA

Bucharest has dispatched a high-level delegation to the Far East, ostensibly to attend North Korean National Day celebrations on Saturday, but with a stopover in Peking billed as an "unofficial friendly visit."

The delegation includes Politburo member Emil Bodnaras, who has visited China four times since 1966--most recently in April 1972--and has met both Mao and Chou En-lai.

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Another member of the delegation, Cornel Burtica, is the party secretary responsible for propaganda, ideology, and information.

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Among the topics to be discussed in Peking will certainly be the Soviet-inspired anti-Chinese propaganda campaign now emanating from Eastern European media. Bucharest has resisted Moscow's pressure to join in and last week effusively congratulated Mao on his re-election to head the Central Committee. Also probably on the agenda will be Bodnaras' concern that Moscow will attempt to convene an international Communist meeting to read China out of the world Communist movement.

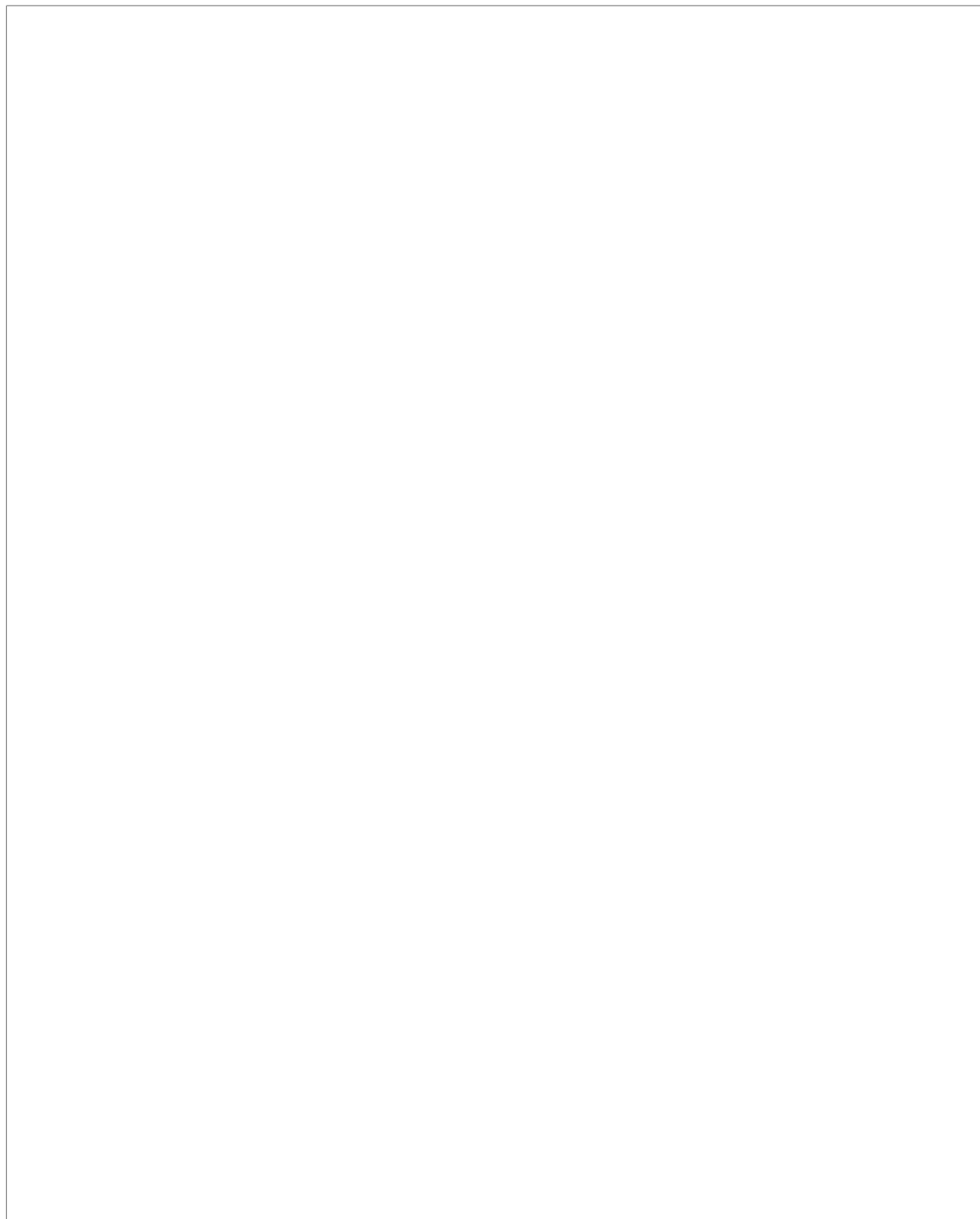
By billing the Peking stopover as "unofficial," Bucharest avoids a final communiqué that might stimulate a hostile reaction from Moscow.

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NOTES

Australia: Canberra probably will impose export controls on meat shipments to the US and other customers in the next few weeks in an effort to reduce domestic meat prices. Australian shipments to the US--most of which are absorbed by fast-food chains--account for nearly half of US beef imports but only a very small proportion of consumption. Japan and the UK take Australian beef of first-grade quality and will be the hardest hit by the proposed controls.

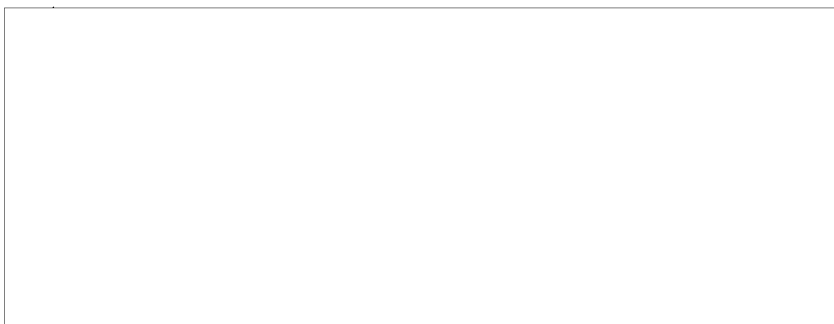
International Monetary Developments: The pound sterling came under heavy pressures on European money markets yesterday. In line with the pound's fall, the dollar depreciated about 1 percent against the joint float currencies. Dealers attribute the pound's weakness to reduced UK interest rates, anticipation of continued large trade deficits, and fears of renewed labor problems.



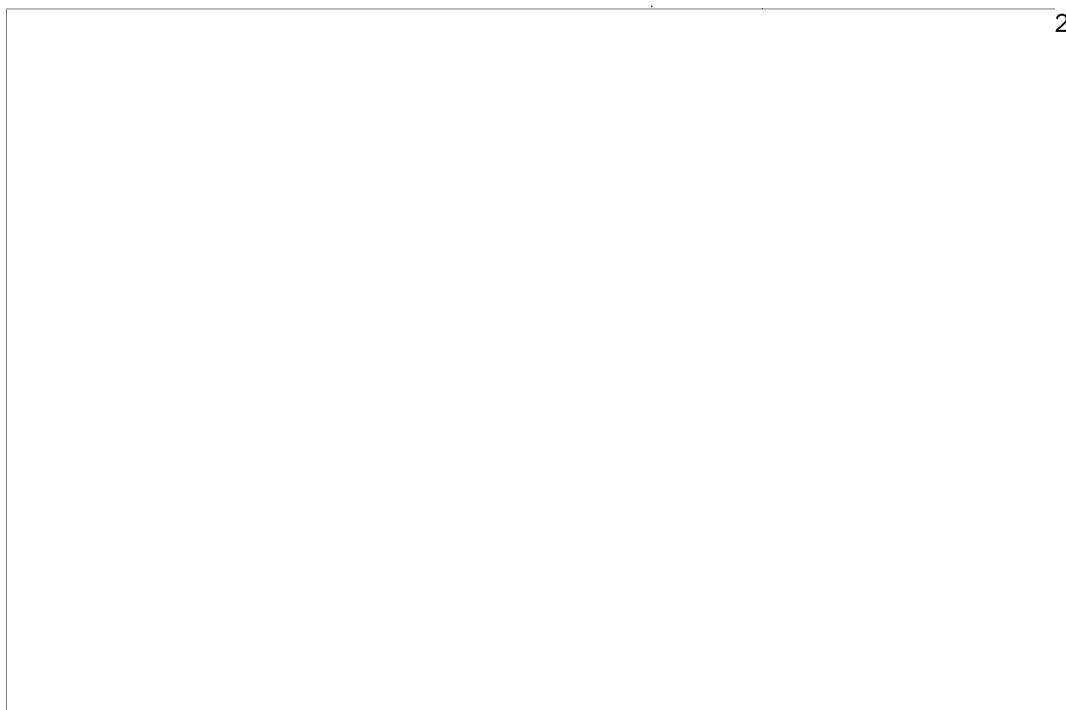
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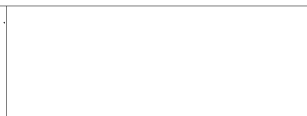
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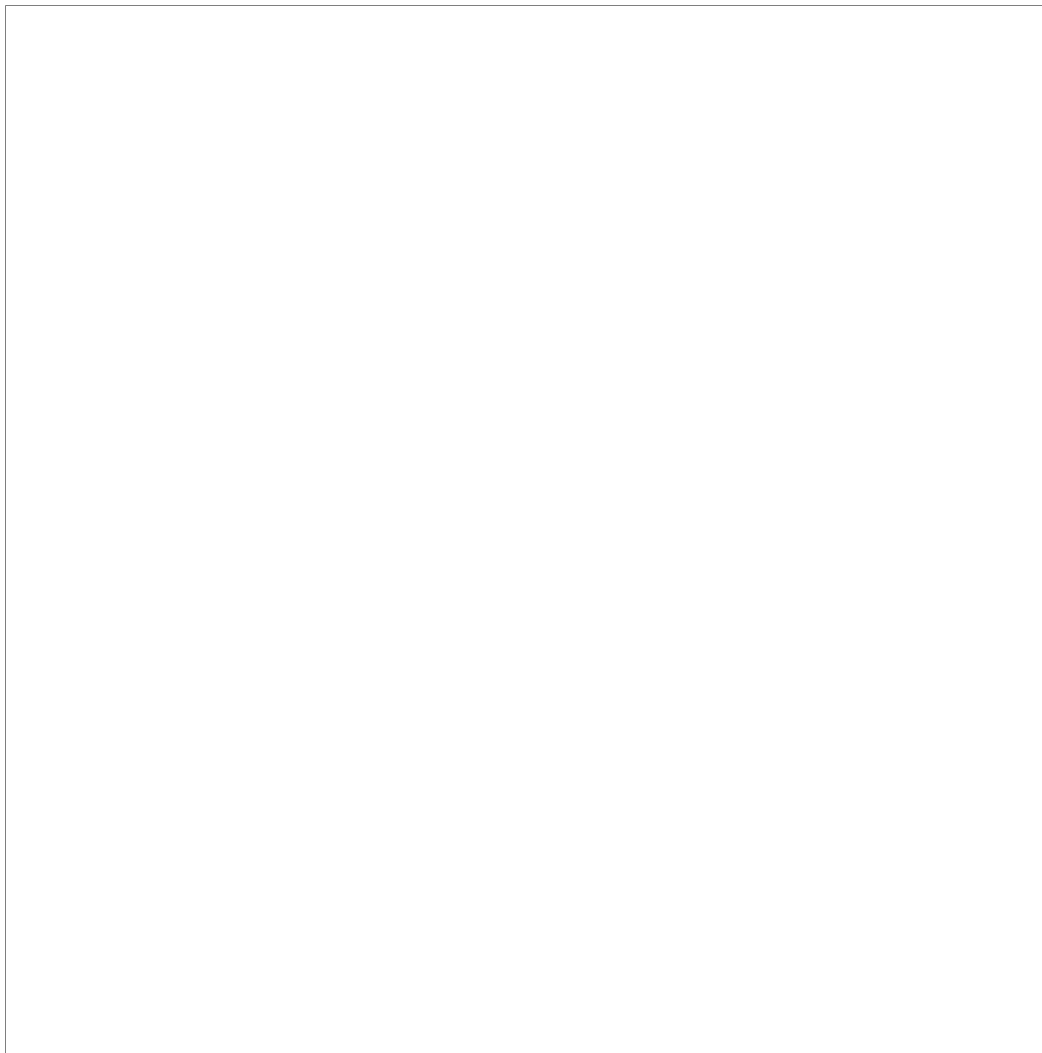
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